

## Problems experienced by the arecanut growers in arecanut cultivation

M.M. BADHE\* AND R.G. TAMBAT<sup>1</sup>

Department of Extension Education, Mahatma Phule Krishi Vidyapeeth, Rahuri, AHMEDNAGAR (M.S.) INDIA

### ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Dapoli and Guhagar tahsils of Ratnagiri district of Konkan region. The sample was constituted 100 arecanut growers drawn from 10 villages. The respondents were interviewed with the help of a specially designed schedule. The exploratory survey design was used for the present study. Major problems faced by the respondents were 'intercropping decreases the yield of main crop', 'did not get minimum price to the arecanut by middle man', 'possibility of transferring disease from intercrop to main crop', 'lack of knowledge about pest and disease'

**Key words :** Problems, Arecanut growers, Arecanut cultivation

### INTRODUCTION

Arecanut or betel nut or supari (*Areca catechu*) is one of the important commercial crops grown in India, since immemorial time. It is a matter of great proud that India at present ranks first in the world both in area and production of arecanut. Arecanut cultivation is said to be date back to pre christian era. This existence of the Sanskrit name 'kramuka' supports the view that this tree has been cultivated in India from very ancient times. Besides India, arecanut is grown in Sri Lanka, Borneo, Philipines, New Guinea, East Indies, East Indian Archipelago and Bangladesh. Arecanut is exported to the countries like Nepal, Singapore, Kenya and Malaysia where it is mainly used for chewing and extraction of alkaloid purpose as it has got medicinal properties such as astringent, narcotic, antihelmentic and vermifuge.

Major Arecanut producing countries of the world are India, China, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand, Bangladesh. India ranks first in both area (58.00 per cent) and production (53.00 per cent) of arecanut. Total area under arecanut is around 3.2 lakh ha and the total production is around 3.4 lakh tonnes. Kerala and Karnataka account for about 70 per cent of country's production. Out of the total production the percentage of white variety is around 60.00 per cent and that of red variety is 40.00 per cent. Arecanut consumption in the country is around 3.3 lakh tonnes.

It can be seen that agro-climatic conditions of the Konkan region are most congenial for the cultivation of Arecanut even then we find that the Arecanut cultivation is restricted to some pocket in Konkan region. Probably the main reason behind this may be the restricted availability of water for irrigation throughout the year in

some pockets of Konkan region. Very little information is available on the cultivation practices followed by the arecanut growers and difficulties experienced by them in cultivation, processing and marketing of arecanut.

The need of present era is to increase the productivity of each and every crop. This could be achieved by adopting improved and high yield varieties and new technologies of crop plant. Dr. Balashab Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli has done valuable research work on major fruit crop of Konkan region.

The university has recommended two varieties of arecanut namely mangala and shrivardhini. So also, other improved package of practices for cultivation of arecanut crop for better production. Efforts are made to transfer these recommendations among the arecanut growers by the extension workers. However, it has been observed that arecanut growers are still following their age old practices of arecanut cultivation. The practices followed by the arecanut growers of Ratnagiri district have not been systematically documented so far. Hence, the study was undertaken to study the problems experienced by the arecanut growers in arecanut cultivation.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

Dapoli and Guhagar tahsils from Ratnagiri district were selected, as area under arecanut cultivation in this tahsils are comparatively more than those of other tahsils of Ratnagiri district. List of villages cultivating arecanut from selected two tahsil were obtained from Department of Agriculture (Taluka Agricultural Officer). From this list, five villages having larger area under arecanut cultivation were selected. For selection of the respondents, a list of arecanut growers who possessed at least of 50

\* Author for correspondence.

<sup>1</sup>Department of Extension Education, S.P. College of Agriculture, Tal. Chiplun, RATNAGIRI (M.S.) INDIA

arecanut trees at one spot was obtained from the Agriculture Assistant/Krishi Sevak of the selected villages. Then from each of the selected village, 10 arecanut growers were selected by using 'n'<sup>th</sup> number method of random selection. Thus the 100 respondents comprised the sample for the study.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results obtained from the present investigation are presented in Table 1.

### *Problems experienced by the arecanut growers in arecanut cultivation:*

Enquiring was made with respondents regarding problem faced by them in arecanut cultivation. As per enquiring farmers have not reported any problem with respect to variety, seedlings, non-availability of fungicides in time and lack of money. Where as they have quoted same problems with regard to the irrigation, use of organic manures, pest and disease control, intercropping, harvesting and marketing.

The major constraints faced by the arecanut growers were, 'Intercropping decreases the yield of main crop' (77.00 per cent), 'Did not get minimum price to the arecanut by middle man' (69.00 per cent), 'Possibility of transferring disease from intercrop to main crop' (67.00 per cent), 'Lack of knowledge about pest and disease' (60.00 per cent), 'Load shading' (49.00 per cent) and 'Shortage of water in April and May' (44.00 per cent).

The findings are similar with findings of Anithakumari *et al.* (2003) Zagade *et al.* (2003) and Thyagarajan and Sivasubramanian (2004).

### *Implications :*

The findings pertaining to constraints experienced by the arecanut growers imply that the concerned organizations and experts may give attention to help the

**Table 1 : Problems faced by the arecanut growers**

Sr. No.	Problems	Percentage (N=100)
1.	Non-availability of skill labour	12.00
2.	Shortage of water in April and May	44.00
3.	Load shading	49.00
4.	Insufficient organic manures	24.00
5.	High cost of organic manures	12.00
6.	Lack of knowledge about pest and disease	60.00
7.	Intercropping decreases the yield of main crop	77.00
8.	Possibility of transferring disease from intercrop to main crop	67.00
9.	Exploitation by middle man	15.00
10.	Did not get minimum price to the arecanut by middle man	69.00

arecanut growers to overcome the constraints related to agriculture in general and arecanut cultivation in particular.

## REFERENCES

- Anithakumari, P., Thamban, C. and Arulraj, S. (2003).** 'Constraints analysis in coconut cultivation'. *Indian Coconut J.*, **9**:6-8.
- Thyagarajan, S. and Sivasubramanian, J. (2004).** 'Constraints experienced by the coconut growers in Pondicherry region'. *Indian Coconut J.*, **35**(8) : 22-24.
- Zagade, P.M., Tawade, N.D. and Kokate, K.D. (2003).** 'Problems of cashewnut growers in adoption of recommended crop protection measures'. *Maharashtra J. Extn. Education*, **22**(1): 44-46.

---

Accepted : October, 2009